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Australian Pulse Crop to Increase in 2010-11

Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

Australia looks ready to plant its largest pulse crop in many years over the next couple of months. Beneficial pre-sowing rains, export opportunities, and a need for crop rotation account for most of the increase in forecast planted area. Flat prices for wheat and barley account for the remainder of the increase in planted area, particularly for chickpeas, lupins, and lentils. Australian industry sources forecast that planted area could rise roughly 25 percent over the 2009/10 planted area. Australian pulse planted area traditionally depends on a number of factors including comparative risk with wheat and barley prices and the need for crop rotation benefits, domestic prices for feed grains, seasonal precipitation and underlying soil moisture.

General Information:

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Australian industry sources report that 2009/10 total pulse production was 40 percent higher than the drought affected 2008/09 crop. Early season good growing conditions with good rainfall raised expectations of a very large crop. However, late season dry weather and disease outbreaks combined to reduce overall crop size. Nonetheless, the overall crop size was still quite large and above that of 2008/09.

Pulse	2008/09 Production in Metric Tons	2009/10 Production in Metric Tons
Desi Chickpeas	343,650	475,000
Kabuli Chickpeas	34,250	37,450
Faba Beans	88,700	224,900
Broad Beans	28,500	17,000
Field Peas	252,100	351,000
Lentils	51,400	104,000
Sweet Lupins	444,120	564,750
Albus Lupins	40,200	47,100

According to industry sources, chickpeas appear likely to show one of the largest year-over-year increases in planted area for 2010/11. Some industry sources forecast that Australia could plant as much as 445,000 hectares of chickpeas. This would be a 22 percent increase in planted area and well above the 5-year average (2005-6/2009-10) of 266,000 hectares according to ABARE data. Lupins, particularly narrow-leaf lupins also appear poised for a sharp jump in planted area.

Industry sources report that India will continue to be the major market for much of Australia's pulse exports, but that sizable amounts are exported to Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and the Middle East. Chickpeas are traditionally Australia's largest pulse exports followed by peas and lupins, according to ABARE March Quarter Commodity data (http://www.abare.gov.au/publications_html/news/news/news.html)

An increase of the dimension forecast by the Australian pulse industry would face logistical issues to move the product to export destinations particularly for containerized rail freight, according to local media reports. Nonetheless, most sources expect the product would still be competitive in the export market.

Recent Media Reports

This report provides useful market price data. <http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/grains-and-cropping/general/pulse-prices-a-shining-light/1815361.aspx?storypage=0>

This report focuses on Australian chickpeas and logistical issues.

<http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/state/grains-and-cropping/pulses/chickpea-whopper-may-choke-logistics/1821694.aspx?storypage=0>

Recent Reports from FAS/Canberra

The reports listed below can all be downloaded from the FAS website at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>.

Title of Report	Date
Beef Grading Agreement Opens Way for Increased Beef Exports to Chile	05/05/10
Sugar Annual 2010	04/15/10
Cotton and Products Annual	03/29/10
Grain and Feed Annual	03/16/10
Wine Annual 2010	03/01/10
Livestock and Products Semi-annual 2010	03/01/10
Government announces Ag Research Initiative to Increase Productivity & Cut Carbon Emissions by 50 percent	02/18/10
Australian Container exports rise	02/02/10